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GOVERNING COUNCIL
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CONSIDERATION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S CONSOLIDATED REPORT ON FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE FOLLOW-UP TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 42/186 AND 42/187

*Implementation of General Assembly Resolution 44/227
Consolidated Report of the Secretary-General*

Note by the Executive Director

Addendum

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Following its consideration of the Secretary-General's consolidated report on further substantive follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187, the Governing Council may wish to consider adopting a decision along the following lines:

The Governing Council

1. *Notes with appreciation* the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227 (UNEP/GCSS.III/4, annex), which concerns further substantive follow-up to Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987;
2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the following actions and developments at the national level:
 - (a) Many Governments have prepared white papers or formal policy statements on the environment and sustainable development reflecting the trans-sectoral nature of these issues;
 - (b) Other Governments have issued presidential decrees, held national-level conferences, workshops or roundtables to build consensus on policy and to mobilize funds to implement environmental action plans within the goal of achieving sustainable development, including natural-resources-use and green plans;
 - (c) Some national policies highlight the relationship between national action and international cooperation to address global problems, while several others increasingly reflect the participation of concerned groups in the population;

(d) Several countries have established, strengthened or reorganized institutions for environmental action and coordination and have related them to development;

(e) Several countries have incorporated environmental concerns into the policies and programmes of development sectors;

(f) Many countries have strengthened environmental legislation relating to areas of priority concern to them, and several are developing umbrella environmental laws;

(g) Some Governments have set out policies that establish principles for further development of instruments that would link environmental issues to the economy, including charges for dumping and incineration, cash-deposit systems for packaging, energy and raw material levies, and special taxes on waste materials and on air pollution;

(h) Many developing countries are examining the use of pricing as a tool for water and forest conservation and for guiding land use to control land degradation;

(i) Environmental impact assessment has become the pre-eminent tool of environmental decision-making at the project level;

(j) There has been a dramatic upsurge, over the last four years, in the involvement of non-governmental organizations and community groups in environmental awareness-building;

(k) Action is being taken in a number of countries to encourage the private sector to participate fully and effectively in the protection and rehabilitation of the environment and in the application of measures to ensure the sustainability of the development process;

3. *Also expresses its satisfaction* at the fact that organizations and organs of the United Nations system have adjusted their programmes and activities to respond to demands for assistance to achieve sustainable development and have:

(a) Expanded, accelerated or intensified activities for environmental awareness-building, information dissemination, expert consultation, intergovernmental consultation and consensus-building, technical cooperation, training, research and development, and institutional networking and strengthening;

(b) Made organizational adjustments to link environmental initiatives to development activities and to monitor and pursue traditional development objectives in tandem with environmental goals;

(c) Undertaken additional activities arising from the clarification and strengthening of mandates for action for environmental assessment and management and for sustainable development;

(d) Provided global, regional and national-level support for the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

4. *Recognizes* the very positive developments in international cooperation on global environmental issues through the adoption of the London Amendment of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the adoption of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the negotiations for global treaties on climate change and biodiversity;

5. *Expresses its satisfaction* that new and additional financial resources to deal with major environmental issues are starting to be mobilized, with the establishment of the Interim Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol and the Global Environment Facility;
6. *Invites* Governments participating in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to review seriously the outlook on sustainable world development presented in chapter V of the Secretary-General's report and to commit themselves to accelerating further the action they have already started, as reflected in paragraphs 2-5 of the present decision, and to taking new actions to respond to the points raised in that chapter of the report;
7. *Also invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to bring the present decision to the attention of the Conference through its Preparatory Committee at its fourth session.
